

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Department of Natural Resources
Room 1050
December 10, 2002

Minutes

Member Present:

HARTY, Kimm - UGS
TRIPP, Barry – DFFSL
MILLIS, Eric – Water Resources
CHRISTY, Kim - SITLA
WILCOX, Richard - SITLA
SCHLOTTHAUER, Bill - DWRi
SOWARDS, Glade – Utah Energy Office
BRADWISCH, Bill - DWR
BLATTER, Therron– DEQ
KEENE, Mike – State Science Advisor
JOHNSON, Wes – DPR
DANIELS, Ron – DOGM
GRUBAUGH-LITTIG, Pamela - DOGM
WEST, Paul - UDOT

Others Present:

WRIGHT, Carolyn - GOPB/DNR
LANDURETH, Brenda - DNR/ADMIN
DELOS SANTOS, Annette - BLM

I. Approval of Minutes

Bill Schlotthauer called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Wes Johnson made a motion to approve the November 12, 2002 minutes. Pam Grubaugh-Littig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Report from Agencies on Any Anticipated Projects

Barry Tripp announced that the William J. Coleman Easement, Project Management System #2360 involves a canal on the west side of the Great Salt Lake owned by William J. Coleman.

Annette Delos Santos, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), stated that the resource management plans (RMP) for Richfield, Vernal and Price are moving along. The state has requested that the BLM extend the RMP deadlines into next year. This will provide an opportunity for BLM and the state to continue to work together on these planning efforts. Annette Delos Santos has recently accepted a position at the Manti-La Sal National Forest and will be moving to Price, Utah. Kirk Gardner and Holly Roberts from the state office will continue to work with RDCC. Assessments may be completed rather than an RMP for Monticello and Moab.

Eric Millis announced that the Division of Water Resources submitted an A-95 last week for a secondary water system in Gunnison, Utah. Pipeline construction will begin around February 2003. This project is listed as Gunnison City Secondary Water System

Improvements Construction Project (#2373) on the Project Management System. This project involves some wetlands impacts.

Bill Bradwisch, Division of Wildlife Resources, provided copies of the most recent Wildlife Review magazine for committee members. Several project articles that have gone through RDCC.

Wes Johnson announced that the Division of Parks and Recreation will close on the Kountz land acquisition soon. DPR will acquire 89 acres of desert tortoise habitat at Snow Canyon State Park on Thursday, December 12, 2002. This land acquisition and five others will be purchased with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Section 6 funding by the end of January 2003. State Parks would like to review and submit comments on the water quality board on Mayflower ponds that are immediately adjacent to Jordanelle Reservoir (Project Management System #2349). Wes Johnson formally requested additional information on this project.

Wes Johnson from State Parks formally requested additional information and maps from the Wasatch Powder Bird Project (Project Management System #2310) to facilitate review the routes and drop off point locations. This project will impact a conservation easement and a major land acquisition at Wasatch State Park.

Kim Christy announced that SITLA is preparing sale targets for their May auction. These items are posted on the Project Management System #2368, #2366, #2365, #2364, #2362, #2361, #2358, #2357 and #2356. Richard Wilcox will be Kim Christy's alternate on RDCC.

Pam Grubaugh-Littig, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) announced that the north lease for Skyline Mine is currently requesting review for an additional 3,000 acres around the perimeter of the mine. If this project is not approved they will need to close the mine. A Mining Plan Approval from the Secretary of the Interior is required to mine and DOGM is expecting approval. Skyline Mine ran into water in August 2001, which has also been associated with the Electric Lake water problem. Pacific Corp (Utah Power) and Canyon Fuels are working together to resolve this issue. DOGM's finding indicates that there is no damage to the hydrologic balance.

Ron Daniels, DOGM, is currently involved in a new rule making process for the oil and gas conservation program. DOGM received concurrence from the board on December 2, 2002. These bonding rules will help discourage poorly performing operators, will require substantial full-size performance bonds for those that are in violation and will require operator financial ability tests. This will improve the state oil and gas bonding and improve oil and gas financial insurance programs.

Mike Keene, State Science Advisor, stated that an individual has a commercial permit to remove slate for pool tables from federal land. This operator may be harvesting and selling fossils on the Internet without a permit. This area is known to have rare and exceptional Cambrian fossils. There are concerns that this operation could be depleting a rare resource. Pam Grubaugh-Littig and Kimm Harty responded by stating that the agency that manages

the parcel of land involved would need to be contacted. Fossil collecting on state and federal land requires a permit. The permit application and rules are different for vertebrate and invertebrate fossils. Mike Keene will identify and contact the appropriate management agency. RDCC invited Mike Keene to contact anyone on this committee for further assistance with this matter.

Bill Schlotthauer, Division of Water Rights (DWRi), announced that Washington Enterprises LC of Salt Lake City filled an application to appropriate (81-4478) to drill six wells and divert 9 cfs to develop an equestrian resort community. They want to take some SITLA land on Beaver Dam Wash and trade it for BLM land to form a block of SITLA land along the Arizona border. He was not aware if anyone at the BLM had been contacted. The project currently proposes to divert a total of about 6,000 acre feet, but they would like to eventually develop 22,000 acre feet. This project will be located in sections from Beaver Dam Wash east to the highway and along the Arizona border. Washington Enterprises plans to put a line of wells along the Arizona border and Beaver Dam Wash. This development will consist of lots for homes, 400 acres of pasture/equestrian area and a commercial area by the highway. Several entities have protested this development due to the limited resource. Washington Enterprises would like to develop the area and proposed to work with DWRi and others to prove the capacity of the resource. There is no compact on the Virgin River at this time. DWRi cannot hold any water in reserve for Arizona or Nevada, but will make an effort to protect their current downstream uses. He has contacted Arizona and Nevada representatives. Washington Enterprises would like to conduct monitoring and test drilling to prove the resource. They appear, at this time, to have the financial resources for the project. They cited studies from U.S. Geological Survey alluding that the resource is adequate; they believe that the area will support this resort. This information is available on the DWRi website. Washington Enterprises is considering drilling wells this spring.

St. George City, Utah is filing a notice of intent (NOI) with the State Engineer to reuse their sewage effluent. This will help to facilitate the Santa Clara Project Agreement where they have committed to supply 1,500 acre feet of the effluent to the Shivwit Indian Reservation, but they are including additional uses for their parks and golf courses. They have hired Bowen Allen Associates of Draper to prepare the NOI and DWRi will advertise this project and send it to RDCC for comment review when the NOI is filed. Administrative Rules on NOI preparation are available for public review and comment on DWRi's website. Comments are due in about a week.

Standards for proof engineers who deal with the State Engineer are being developed. If the proof engineer does not meet acceptable standards they will be referred to business regulation.

Announcements

The committee welcomed Kim Christy as the new RDCC representative from SITLA. Steve Boyden, the director is leaving SITLA and Kevin Carter will be the new director in January 2003.

Bill Schlotthauer announced that Marty Ott is the new Montana BLM director.

Kimm Harty announced that geologists must be licensed to practice in Utah by January 2003.

At the next meeting RDCC will hold an election to select another chairperson.

III. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 a.m. The next meeting will be held on January 14, 2003, at 9:00 a.m., at the Department of Natural Resources, in room 1050.